

July 10, 1999

# MEMO

TO: Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)

Food and Drug Administration

5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061

Rockville, MD 20852

0756 '99 JUL 16 A10:59

RE: Docket No. 98N-1038, Irradiation in the Production, Processing and Handling of Food

I am a strong believer in honesty in advertising; an advertisement that is only truthful may still omit critical information. A clear label indicating that a product has been irradiated is honest. I work to engineer public water systems and, as you may be aware, it will soon be required to make all information available to those served regarding the treatment of their water as well as the ongoing water quality test results. This is right and fair and I think the same duty is owed to the public in the case of food processing. It should be made clear how the food is processed.

I therefore support the recommendations by the Center for Science in the Public Interest regarding labeling of irradiated foods:

"Any foods, or any foods containing ingredients that have been treated by irradiation, should be labeled with a written statement on the principal display panel indicating such treatment. The statement should be easy to read and placed in close proximity to the name of the food and accompanied by the international symbol. If the food is not packaged, this information should be clearly displayed on a poster in plain view and adjacent to where the product is displayed for sale."

I further think that the specific word "irradiation" needs to be included in the label instead of any general or non-specific reference to, for example, pasteurization. I urge that the labeling requirement be continued indefinitely until such time as the effect of the process on humans and the environment is definitely understood and definite guidelines established for its safe use.



Paul van Gulick, PE

98N 1038

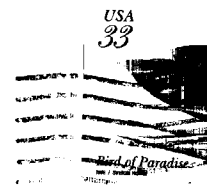
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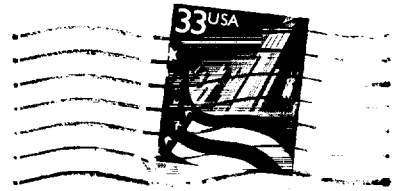
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